Conversation with Judith Hall, Constance Berryman,
Margaret Wilson and John Salom 20th January 1977

M Say how Mother went up to Cossack They she went up as a lady help to

J All right, yes

M to Hannah Boyd

J Soon before they were married

M. Yes

C That would be about 1906

M 7 or 8

M She went back south and waited for ages to get married. Mother was only 23 when she got married. She was born in 88

C Mother had been working at the at Pingerra Park and I think that was the job she had immediately prior to going up to Cossack to look after Hannah Boyd.

M. Well do we go back a little bit come there that. It doesn't take long. And say that Grandfather Lodge came out in 1852

C No born in 1852

M Born in 1852? He didn't come out

C He must have come out in the late 70's. And he came out in a sailing ship and it took about three months.

M With R.E. Bush [?]

C And on the way he was shown by a sailor how to do the most marvellous rope work. You know splicing and making eyes and joining ropes with a marlin spike I think you call it. And he did that beautifully until the end of his life.

J S He was the unique thing that
And that was where they killed a pig and put it up in the rigging and it turned green and —

M. I that I know that sounds like the tale of Mother and of poor Hannah coming down with the dead baby at the mast.

JS Oh dear!

M. Anyway he came out here with R.E. Bush and he had a letter of introduction to people in Perth and the Leakes I presume.

C Including the Leakes. And he went up North. I had a letter some years ago that he sent me up to be typed, copied off and I've lost that completely and it's an account written to Aunt Helen of how he went North and he went up to the Gascoyne when R.E. Bush selected Bidgemia and then he came down and lived for a while at Geraldton and he was supposed to be the first man in the Geraldton district to wear pyjamas

J S What did they do go in and in their clothes? Those newfangled pyjamas.

? Nightshirts!

C William Shakespeare Hall was supposed to have been the sight of Cossack when he fed the chooks in the morning in his nightshirt and his nightcap

JS Yes, it would have been so dr-a-f-t-y and cold

C Anyway Thomas Sutor Lodge came to Perth and Gog said to me that she met him and was introduced to him and then one day she was walking in Perth It was windy and she nearly bumped into him on a corner and she said for the first time she sort of was attracted to him and they were married in 1886 in St George's Cathedral on the 15th September

M And Peter and I were married on the 15th September at was it their golden wedding?

C It was their golden wedding in 1936

M. But we were married in St Mary's West Perth

J Now where did Granny Helen grow up?

M At Yandygie and Seaton Ross. → BEVERLEY,

J Where are they?

JS In Grass Valley near Northam

C In what Mother always called the Eastern Districts. It's out from Northam, Beverley and Northam.

JS But Grass Valley isn't right. Yeah?

M No Grass Valley's right. But when she needed some education and couldn't live on the farm, that's when she went to live with Dr Dunlop.

JS In.

M York

C. Northam

M Northam, in Doctor's Hill in Northam. And if she wanted to pick a bone she had to sit under the table.
JS I'd forgotten that
M Wasn't allowed to do it in view
C Anyway the house in Yandygin that it was burned down. They that's thatched roof house on the property that it burned down. And our grandmother running through the house grabbed the marvellous crayon drawing of Bup as a young man and took that outside. And the family was left with practically nothing in the way of clothing or furniture.
M. Mother
C Mother was away that she had her clothes.
JS She was at Albany when the it must have been the 1917 ...so much earlier when the American fleet
C 1908
M But I don't know if that was when the fire was
JS I wonder if Judy's ever read that to her about saying what a ball she was having in Albany
J I've heard about them.
M. And this the one that the US Consul's got and uses at the that of his thing the relationship between West Australia that the United States over a hundred years.
C Well! Mother was doing her that for international relations!
JS Oh, but she was such a pretty girl
M And it was because of them asking for a photo of her at the time that I that that crayon drawing done by Eric Ryan that you have. And Judy's bespoke the picture of Mother
J Is that all right?
C Oh, yes.
M. If either of you want a copy of that. Alan's made a negative
C Anyway we'll have to get Mum born in 1888, and in about 1891 they went to England and Mum remembers being at Aunt Helen's and staying there. They came back to West Australia that Aunt Joan was born. Then I think up in the Eastern Districts. Aunt was born in Yandygin I think.
M Or Benton Rees, one or the other
JS And perhaps it should be said that Bups was managing those farms for Darlo [?] was it?
C Mongers or Darlo's. I don't remember which.
JS And then Gaggon must have come by some money that they bought Strelley near Busselton.
C Yes. Their father died in about 1895 in the that of my recollection that it was her money that bought Strelley towards the that of the century
JS Does everyone know that Gaggon was Sarah Constance that that she was the oldest of the seven Leake daughters?
M. No no. She wasn't the eldest.
JS Well there you are. I need that talk.
M. No, there were Lady Parker and the Bishop Parry's wife, they were all older. Mary Skinner. There was Mary that Jessie that whatever ... all older but that doesn't need to come into it because in the picture of the seven Leake girls I have given their birth, marriage and death dates that the names of their children that that's all recorded
C on the date of this photograph
M And you must have a photo of the seven Miss Leakes Judy because that
C It's a lovely photo
M. It's a lovely photo. They're beautifully dressed, magnificent women that they're middle-aged that it's the last time they were all together

J You don't bring up that photo
M No.
C Oh in the Centenary
? 1929
J You showed it to me the other day
M For Alan to make a negative I presume, as in she giving it to me.
J I that I know she just said that's for Margaret
M Well I must ring her up about it that we woollied that Dennis is a little boy in it. Looking very like Aunt Joan.
J S Anyway I interrupted by saying that about Gaggon. We must say how they got to be called

Goggen and Bups later on.

C that was my first infant attempt at Grandpa and Grandma and after and the various in-laws found it very convenient. Instead of calling the Mum or Dad or whatever they were Gog and Bups.

M Well they started off I understand as Goggen and Buppa.

C Yes

M And it got down to Gog and Bups and all the our [illegible] and [illegible] to come and stay at Stratty everyone called them Gog and Bups

JS And of course it never was Bups and Gog.

C Yes we had our priorities right.

M. And let it be recorded that wasn't Bup went and bought Stratty at Busselton with Connie's money when he came back he said Oh of course I've got it in my name. And it was her money

C She was very upset

JS I seem to remember that Mother said after he'd been into town down the business, Well Tom, isn't there something I should sign? And he said, It's quite unnecessary my dear. He arranged it all, because in those days the law

C I don't think the Married Women's Property Act had been passed or if it had Bup hadn't heard of it or worried about it. Anyway, Mother went North. And she said and when she got off the boat, I don't know if there was a jetty there then, the first person she saw was Father and she said that she fell in love with him then, he was so attractive.

JS Well I didn't know that.

C Yes he met her at the boat.

J What took her North? Why did she go?

C She got the job of helping to look after Hannah Boyd Hall who had had a stroke. She and someone who was Norah Dunn

M. Later the Matron of Wooroloo for about 16 years

C Norah looked after her the two sons lived at home most of the time, and Mum was there as Lady Help

JS Well, was Aunt Joy still down then?

M. No she'd gone.

C No she was married.

M. Because Lou is older than Connie.

J Well were Granny and Pa married up North?

C No. They got engaged, and

M. and then it wasn't proper for them to stay in the same house

C No I don't the engagement was kept secret for some time because there's a letter from Gog which gives sort of qualified approval to the engagement. She didn't like it being private. She didn't seem very happy about it. And then Mother came South because as you observed it wasn't

M proper

C proper. And she and it been twelve months it may have been longer down at Stratty with her parents before Dad came down and they were married on the 24th Nov 1910 and I think Father was a day late.

M. Father was a day late and without refrigeration and with all the reception there, you can imagine how difficult it was

M. and Gog had done all the cooking for the reception which was held at Stratty

J And what did they do? Have the reception and then the wedding?

M. or they waited

C they must have tried to keep [illegible] in Nov it would be fairly warm.

J S And why was he late?

M because the tide [illegible] and they hadn't allowed enough

JS He had to get a train from Perth to Busselton which you know wouldn't go the minute he was about to step on it

M There are two photos. There's one of Dad and Mother coming out of St Mary's Busselton and he's in a white drill nor west suit and Mother is obscured but you can see the carriage thing that they drove away in and then there's a studio photo taken in Perth afterwards when they came up and she didn't wear her veil because this wasn't right because she was no longer a bride. And this magnificent hat and her going away frock were presents from Aunt Helen and Aunt Julia Lodge, Bob's sisters who sent out the same for Aunt Jane and sent out their coming out frocks about they were 18 and those exquisite frocks more But Father thought that Mother's going away frock which was exquisite, was not something too tight, too modern, not

S It had a hobble skirt

C It had a hobble skirt. Yes

M. He didn't approve, and she wasn't allowed to wear it

JS. Oh she didn't wear it. Isn't a hobble skirt, you know they literally had to walk that that.

M but I can remember the colour of it, and I can remember the fabric and it was a sort of greeny blue and it was in silk

C moire [?] silk

M No.

C I remember a terrible thing. Mum chopped her wedding dress up It was only a little piece of it left

M. It was

JS That overskirt

M Well the other thing I've done I've put Mother's wedding photo the Museum has it, and they have her high boned wedding collar which she retained.

C Did she?

M. And I've put them in the Museum and they're going to mount the collar but they wore them right up to here. all in

C Do you know why they wore them? because Queen Alexandra had had an operation I think on her goitre and she wore a high collar to cover it. And so everybody else wore

JS And she had the choker pearls. she was the one who the great choker pearls

C This was to cover the scar and I believe that one of the Royal family limped a little and there was a sort of Royal limp

JS That was Alexandra too and it was fashionable to limp

C It was fashionable to limp, yes

M This was how devoted to Royalty but there are two things you know look out for them eventually they will be used. They are sort of more modern They're this century but the Museum was delighted to have them And Mother's beautiful fans. black ostrich white ostrich and a little grey sort of one All of them are in the Museum with beautiful tortoise shell ribbing.

C Are they on show?

M. As far as I know they're not at the moment, but at least they'll be cared for

JS Where would Mother have got those, because they really were.

M They're from England and they were part of their going coming out regalia as far as I know that all the nicest young.

JS I wonder I suppose the white one was

M The black one was the one that took my eye Although the Lodges didn't have any money Bub seemed to go from one small inheritance to another that always retrieved the day

M. And they had lovely things like that for all appropriate occasions and they were allowed this, one trip to two trips

C Two trips so far as I know to England. Then the story is that when our grandparents were married there were a number of letters waiting for Bub and he sort of just bored them onto one side and Gog said to him Look do read them do read them And one of them was from his father with a cheque for their fares to England. So she had a sort of belated honeymoon to England before she had Mother and then they had planned trip in 1891 and I think I think they went again.

M. And Gog did better than me Mother did because Dad was agent for the Adelaide Steamship Co when he got married and they gave him a honeymoon trip to Brisbane and back for he and his wife for a honeymoon present and he didn't accept it and didn't tell Mother them until ages afterwards. And he went on his honeymoon bringing lodgers with him and so she said going back on the boat she made sure he didn't do any of his own work.

J What was he doing?

M He was Adelaide Steamship Co. agent.

J And that was up North?

M. When Cossack was the port for Roebourne and it was the boom days really for them All the wool went through them There was the pearl shell out It was very active, much more active

JS And one interesting thing that is out of today was that they didn't always have a jetty Whenever they got a jetty up it used to get blown away And they used to have the lighter all the stuff out to Cossack Roads beyond a place called Jarman Island [?] and they couldn't even choose the boat to go out when the ship was due. They had to go out on the right sort of tide so that you know they would be tossing around out there in this little lighter waiting for the ship to come. And then everything had to be, you know, passengers up and down the ladder into a lighter from the coastal ship.

M. I can remember being terrified, going from the lighter up the side of the thing, up the rope ladder

C. The wind's moving, the little lighter's moving. You've got that wretched ladder swinging. I don't think it was a rope ladder. It might have been a rope ladder down from the gangway. I think the gangway came down and you had to get somehow up to the gangway

JS Yes because that of course wouldn't come right down to the boat

M And one of the girls we knew, I can't think which one, an Edney or someone, fell and went into the water from one of them. I just thought I would. And landing down it was worse, coming off the boat than getting on it, cos you could shoot up it, but to hitch down, and they had to wait til the gang way came down and the boat came up, and then you'd jump, and the men would catch you. And that really wasn't much fun. And you travelled then with all the sheep on deck and they smelled bloody hell. They were all penned.

JS But they were on the deck of the holds, not on the deck with the passengers.

M. But the smell was there

C And I think the cattle went underneath. I know the Kangaroo was a stock boat. She carried very few passengers only about 12 passengers. And she was mainly stock and what would you call it? Provision ship

M There was the Minderoo and the Kangaroo

C And the Bambra. I can just remember the Bambra.

M Oh, the Bambra was lost in a hurricane wasn't it?

JS Oh, but the Bambra was in

M. the Cambacoot was lost

C The Bambra had been a German vessel which was bought when Germany entered the war and I can just remember because over the cabins for the wireless officer and things like that was the German word for it. What happened to her I don't know but I must have travelled on her when I was about five, cos I just remember

M. And that's where we heard our first radio the bloke, the wireless operator took us up into his little tiny closet thing and we were supposed to want the Children's Hour or the Children's something or other and the static and the banging and the clanging and things and I had to pretend that I could hear when you got about one word in ten, but that was exciting

C This must have been about 1919 when we heard that

JS No, because I was five when we came down to Perth that went. Well, you may have heard it before but we hadn't been to Perth in my time until then. So you would have been very little. But on that trip, that was when we heard it. And round we went back we were in Perth six months, and we went to school here at Mosman

M. Cottesloe

JS Cottesloe.

M And we lived in Louise Street, in that semi-detached house

JS That's right.

M And Mother got ill, and went up to Mary Adamson and Gag looked after us

C That's right. And then you two went

JS We went up.

C And for months afterwards your Mother with tears in her eyes would say A bit Haw-thorpe [?] and away she'd go again.
absolute paradise

C With Mary Adamson I think and what was Mary's daughter

JS and her name was Maryan not Marion, but Maryan

M. I think she was Mary Adamson

J We've talked about Granny and Pa getting married, and you commented about her using her wedding there. What did she use it for? What did she cut it up for?

C I don't know. It saddened me dreadfully. I just heard little pieces almost as if she'd cut it up in an upset time.

JS Yes

M. Because she had a terrible time.

J Well, when they were married.

M Well, lets go back

J They were married down here. So then where did they live?

C They went up to Roebourne I think, not Cossack.

M They lived in Roe s cottage which was Mother s first home, opposite the hospital and it s in ruins now. And it s a very interesting building because if you look on the front wall there s set in the stonework and the whatever you call the stuff, is a wine bottle.

C a champagne bottle.

M. a champagne bottle, a champagne glass and a cork

C And you've got to look for it.

JS And Roe is not R-O-S-E like a flower

M. No, it s ROE, after Roe, after whom Roebourne was called.

C And I think it was Gus Roe s cottage

J Now how long did Fa stay with the Adelaide Steamship Co ?

M Not long after they were married. That kind of folded up at some point. He d already lost his station.

J No, he lost that after he was married.

C My word, after I was born. Look, I must try and get this right. Mother was married before I was born. I was born when they d been married almost two years. I was born on the 9th August 1912. The following year 1913 I came to Perth with Mother and there s that photograph of me as a great fat knotty baby and Father had gone broke then, and he d taken refuge on the station to try and pull his together and do what he could.

M Because he d financed this station. Abydos farm, he was very comfortably off when he was the Adelaide Steamship Agent, but he was no business man, and I think like he was when he had the commerage in Carnarvon. He didn t send his accounts out.

JS He just expected people at ask to pay their bills.

M. He was no businessman, but he worked awfully hard.

JS Has it been said that he was a partner with his cousin. Val? Hester and his Mother Ernest.

C I think there were the two Hesters and the two Halls at the Abydos (Ab/I/dos)

M. All/ides

C Father called it Ab/I/dos and everybody else called it All/ides and which is which I don t know

M. And it was later a Government experimental station, and it s now been given off to the natives.

C Anyway Father wouldn t let Mother go up there, and he sent her down to Strelly to stay with her parents and he sent Elsie Maude McNeill who was a half-caste girl with Mum to help look after me because Mother had trouble with her lung, a spot on the lung. And Elsie Maude McNeill stayed with us until after Margaret was born.

J And you were born up North?

M. Yes, no, I was born. Father came and I must have been conceived at Bunbury and Mother stayed on until I was born. And then she went back when I was 3 months old, and that s what nearly killed me. I was born on the 10th July 1915 at Bunbury in the cold, and in about the Nov she took me back to Roebourne and we went out to Croydon to Ernest Hall s almost

J Well, did you stay down, or were you sent down?

M For three years.

C No, I came back with Mother and Margaret as the infant and I have a faint recollection of that dreadful journey which was seared into Mother s mind. Croydon would be about 50 miles Roebourne. Then I m unsure of Croydon was out the back of Sherlock. It was a long way. I just remember going in a buggy which was the only transport available then. It got desperately hot in the middle of the day when we came to a mill, and Mother has often spoken of this. And I faintly remember it. She bathed poor Margaret and me in a trough of water to try and cool us

M. Under the mill tap

C And then we went on and eventually got to Croydon and I just remember the house there, which was of tin, right beside a red hill and that was where Cousin Ernest was with his wife, Connie Winnie and then there d be Gwen, Henry and Theo. And I remember hitting Theo over the head with a piece of bamboo and wasn t allowed to play with him. And then according to legend, I don t know how true, Hubert Hall came back from the war minus an arm, and he had and this job at Croydon which Father and [illegible] because Hubert had gone away. Father felt that he must let Hubert come to back to this place and we left, I suppose to Cossack, and then to Jarman Island.

M Because the war was on, and the German lighthouse keeper was interned

C No, he was interned whilst we were there. He was still there when we went to brother Island

M Oh and whilst we were there he

C Father took over from one of the Pearses. He got this job for six months at Jarman Is which was a paradise as far as brother was concerned because of the fishing, the coolness, the nice house they had a little boat and could sail across to Cossack for their supplies

M which she loathed.

C I suppose she would do

M. And Father was nearly killed trying to save this boat in the tail end of a willie willie

JS But by that time whatever the man s name was.

C Nangle[?]

JS Uncle Ernest then came

C I remember the palace coming out for Mr Langer[?] We had these marvellous quarters at Jarman Is, and I must tell you this because it shows how good kids were in our time. He had one end Mr Langa, we had the other end, and Mother put a chalk line on the verandah and she said You children do not go past that line, that is Mr Langa s territory. You stay on this side

M. and we did.

C And did. Yes. And the water for the quarters was an enormous underground tank and when you took the lid off and looked in there there was a mass of cockroaches.

JS I ve always felt rather cheated because I didn t know anything about this and I ve had to hear all my life to the paradise I missed.

J Well, where were you born?

JS I was born in Roebourne in 1919

M Delivered by Granny Truslove, the old midwife.

JS That s right I think

M who delivered Connie?

C No Dr Mansell [? Maunsell]

JS I remember I was born on the 24th August and Mother s Jarman Jack was born on the 25th August, so not of the same year I may say. And knowing that his birthday was the next day apparently Granny Truslove said, Well, why don t you wait until your brother s birthday? And Mother said, Not on your life. But the time coming rather close she said Granny Truslove has to sort of say Well hang on a bit, because I ve got to milk the cow yet. And presumably she came back and washed her hands and got on with it.

J Well why did Fa leave Jarman Island

M Well, because it was only a six month

J so then what did he do?

JS When did he do the Department of Lands surveys?

M. After that. Because

C No he went to Andover. He went from Jarman Island to Andover

M That s right. Because I was a toddler then.

C And we had this ghastly place which had been sheared of its verandah by a hurricane when we got there. It was a terrible place

M. And I ve got photos of it. It s not quite as bad as you make out. Because the photos show it

C. Without the verandah?

M. Yeah.

C It was about 150 yards measured to the kitchen

M. Well that s because of all the fires in the kitchens, so the house wouldn't get burnt down.

C Yes, but it was a long way. And you even went across the little tiny bridge over a waterfall, over a little gully to get there.

M. And Mother that s why Mother always wore a hat. And she had this beautiful skin because she always wore a hat. And she used to wear a veil driving. And all I can remember of Andover is coming back from Roebourne in the sulky and coming over a rise and they always used to sort of make a bit joke about me, because I said I can see the burning place. And Connie might think it s an awful little thing, but apparently to me that was good Mother was marvellous with the natives there They used to do all sorts of things, but particularly with the children They used to get convulsions from eating bits of kangaroo and choking and she d take a baby by its ankles and beat it on the back to get the stuff out of it And do all sorts of things Both our parents were marvellous to natives There, and then later at Sunrise Which we ll come to Because they d used to light the fires

C All the Halls have been kind to the natives

M From Henry Edward, Henry Hastings

C Walter Shakes

M William Shakespeare, Harold Aubrey

C and so We ve never been nasty to a native Not that we've and much opportunity!

M. No but we ve always been

JS Dad s attitude was different.

M My black brother

JS They were dignified people and he called them Black brother And he was a very stoic man in the matter of physical pain. And if you d say something about that he d say "Well you should be able to copy Black Brother I remember him getting by an angry camel after she d been branded and as she went out the gate she clocked him. and some days later he complained of indigestion and eventually that was and eventually he went in to town and was and the doctor said Well actually you ve got two broken ribs, but they re knitting nicely But you know just a bit of indigestion he had two broken ribs.

M Well he had an abscessed about during shearing and every smoko he would get a pair of [illegible] pliers and at and he eventually worked it out that it said him an awful lot of smokos to get it out by pulling his own tooth.

JS And think him antiseptic too

J And of course I remember him later with a broken leg that he walked around on for two days.

M. More than two days. It was days and days before he d condescend

J Was it Andover where you were

C I think it was I went South in 1917 when I was exactly five with Mrs Gallant to stay at Strelley with my grandparents because my grandfather was fretting. and I was to occupy him I suppose I ve always adored my grandparents and was familiar with the place And I was down there for two and a half years. And I didn t see Joan, who was four months, when I saw her first You were born in August of 1919 and you Margaret and Mum came south at the end of that year

JS Oh, I thought I d never been to Perth until I was five.

C No, you came with, well, you wouldn t know anything about that trip. And Mum stayed down at Strelley and I remember going back with you there

M. What was the name of the woman where I was born at the private hospital?

C Robertson. Dr Robertson was the doctor and his wife ran the nursing home where you were born and the where is still standing.

M It s a lovely place.

C In Busselton

M Well, who was it occupied by later? Well that s still standing, and I go past it Strelley is now the Lodge s about is the next drive in after the drive-in theatre on the road to Yallingup out of Busselton And the lovely old stone house is still there, been modernised, but it s all basic and standing

JS that it s all covered around with suburbs isn t it?

M And in the backyard of it was this lovely long low early colonial bungalow and belonged to Joseph Strelley-Harris, the Magistrate and the present people when they bought it they had it bulldozed to tidy up the backyard, and this was a fascinating place where all grandfather s English papers, the Spheres, the Tatler and Punch and the Field and the all of those things were there and we used to go and read all the funny jokes and things in those and that was a marvellous place and if the present people had used their wits they could have made a lot of money charging tourists to see an early colonial place. We have got a photo of it that that is and But it was called Strelley after Joseph Strelley Harris.

J Do you.

JS No, I don t.

C When we came back north again in, oh early 1920 I think we must have gone to Roebourne and lived in what Mum always called the Sardine Tin. Marg. will tell you about the inside of the Sardine Tin because she remembers it vividly And

M. It was opposite the hospital

C And father had a job re-appraising for the Lands Department.

M. 1919 to 1921

JS And Mother must have gone and taken the children with her on some of these trips because dear Flora Hall, ___ Herbert's ___ I think it was she who says she can remember me learning to walk at Millstream, so I must have been a year or so when Dad was

C We had that marvellous trip onto the tableland. Father hired a cart driven by Vic Wheeler he took us up to Millstream, the Irvine's place Ken Irvine's home Ken wasn't there at the time And we stayed there. We went from there to what was the Cusack's place?

JS Tambrey

C And from Tambrey we went

M to Mt Florence

C to Mt Florence and from Mt Florence we went to Coolawanya.

JS I was I remember who was Coolawanya, but

M Parsons??

JS Mt Florence was Churches, and then Andrews

C Andrews were managing it for Churches when we were there.

M. And the dining room there was lined with mosquito net like a great big tent inside the thing, and I was fascinated as a child looking at the doorway They had a door of net, and it was all dirty on the thing from where all the men used to walk through and it rubbed on their hands. I can remember looking at this.

C Because the marvellous thing was that you ate your meal without flies. Which was really something

M. And Mrs Andrews' sister would it be Miss Hill

C Mm

M. She was up there and she used to tell us fascinating stories these ants being people and living in this tree, and I remember being just spellbound at these. And she took for those thirty or forty years, was Matron of Bethesda down here, and became frightfully religious. And she remembered me when I was a patient there.

JS Good gracious!

M And

C You tell about the Sardine Tin, because it was quite a place

M Well the other thing to say at these the beautiful Millstream was where this water which was is supplying all these towns this almost bottomless, the source of this water is a spring water coming up all the time. And there bath was the stream going through the grounds and they built a big rush hut over it. You went in through the door and you sat on these beautiful paving stones at the bottom and that water was running through and I can remember the thrill of losing a face cloth and you just went out underneath the edge of the bushes and got your thing and water back in And we never had sort of water ever running water and this was just gorgeous

C It was a lovely place

M. But the Sardine Tin was opposite the hospital, and it had a front verandah which had Freddy creeper

C Darwin creeper

M And it had was that the little red pots that you

C It had blue flowers and red pots.

M Yes and it was very attractive and we had these hut along this and it had a flagged verandah out to Mother's room, and Mother seemed very ashamed almost, of whoever had been in this house, they painted a very skittish picture on the back of the wash-room door which was of the famous early tail end of an aeroplane, with a girl sitting on the end and her scarf flying in the breeze and her long legs crossed, and this was very racy And so Mother used to hang things on the back of the door to cover up this picture.

J Now the Sardine Tin, tell me again, where was this?

M. It was in Roebourne opposite the hospital And it had, Father then like he made everything if he made a thing, it was to last unto the third and fourth generation. Anyway it was decided that we should have fowls and he built a movable fowl coop that could be pushed round and put in different positions But this made a nice pitch, and would he'd look away with horses and things and came from he used to put the saddles along the top of that pitch and we used to get on them and ride

C I d forgotten that. We had two rooms. There were two rooms in the front part of the Sardine Tin Sitting room and a bedroom. there of that was an open verandah

M With a long table with forms and it was like a breezeway place

C Yes, and off that thatched, was the kitchen. Next door to the kitchen was the wash house, with no floor in it and at one end of the house, the left hand side as you face the house, was one bedroom, where again and no floor And we had

M But we didn t use that

C Our beds were on the front verandah, and our clothes went have from in it I think. And there was, we didn t have a bathroom, we had a shower room, just a shower that was all

M Which was very well who wanted a bath in that bathroom.

C It was next then to the old State School, which is still standing there

M And poor as we were, we always commented on how absolutely clear it was that we couldn t go to a State School and we couldn t play with the children that went to it, and we went to a private school opposite, to Mrs Thompson who s quite weird now and did Burry there for a lot of money on behalf of the natives and had free trips on it That s by the by And her brother embezzled money and it was a big disgrace

C Arnold

M. But all I remember of going to Mrs Thompson s for eighteen months which was my first schooling, I learnt to say three-a-bee Betty was as round as fat as a tub

J and I can remember that That s one of the few things I remember

C Good Lord.

J And Jill learnt it from you too

M And the other one, was The wind sprang up from his fir went bed. That s all I remember learning from her

J Well did you go to that school?

C I went to that school.

M And the Glenn girls

C There was ourselves, the Glenn girls and Therald Mills

M. And Derek

C Which was Mrs Thompson s brother very much younger and yes,

M and the other thing there what worries me now is, that we grew up there with all the road work in Roebourne being done by the native prisoners and they were in chains, two, I think a pair at a time and allowed to their wheelbarrows, and I didn t query this. I thought black people you put chains on them and they made the roads. I didn t think of it being harsh, cruel or

C It was a fact of life.

M It was a fact of life. And this makes me realise how South Africans grew up with all these prejudices.

J S Because you do accept

M. There was no comment made to say isn t that ghastly isn t that inhuman

C Nobody would believe how protected we were I was ten when we left Roebourne to go to Sdrint and in this little tiny miserable town, with practically no traffic I was never allowed too by myself. I couldn t walk there to the shops, I could hardly cross the road by myself

J What did you do all day?

C I don t know Judy All I remember of my childhood practically in Roebourne is boredom, is dullness.

J You remember being bored. You remember not knowing

C Because you see, I was the eldest, Margaret three years younger than I am. I am older than any of the children I played with at a time it was quite a difference, and

JS You had the Glenns.

C Yes but I am older than

M But it had to be structured. We couldn t run down the

C We couldn t run to the Glenns We had to wait till Mother went to see Mrs Glenn, and then we could go and play together

J Did you have any toys?

Very few
C Very few and by that time I could read. I seem to have been able to read most of my life. One of my joys was going to the Mansells and they had a shelf full of children's books including all of

END OF SIDE ONE

C. We've got up to Mrs Thompson's.
M. And we've got up the Mansells. But wonderful Sundays we used to go up there and they played tennis and she always had marvellous afternoon teas.
J Where was this?
M. He was the stock and the station magistrate and lived diagonally station across from us.
J Oh yes
M. And Mrs Mansell had been Alda Stewart and her stepfather was Captain Banger [pron Bon-jer]. Her mother married a second time. She was a delight. He was an Irish doctor and in the safe at Compton Street is his account to Father for a hundred guineas for setting Dad's brother's leg accidentally. He shot himself through the leg scrambling out of ... he was going to shoot a roo and it charged him and he scrambled through the rails and the gun went off and went through his knee and so he had one quite bowed leg from this and a hundred pounds then, was like a fortune.
JS It would be more than a man's pay for a year
C Yes
M A lot more. And Father paid it off and then by contra accounts something or other he must have done for him. But I refused to part with that. And it's down in the safe. What we do with it now but I think it should go to the B.M.A. or Dr Alan Wilson.
JS Anyway on with the story
C Well, when Father finished that job for the Lands Dept he got a job as a manager of Satrist station which was owned by Mr H R. Simmons and it was out past.
M. Well, he was the manager of Whim Creek Mine
C It was out past Wyne Creek, past Mullina, it was the last station on the mail route. And we didn't have people go through because we were the last. And we lived for about two and two and a half years, and it nearly drove Mother insane. The isolation, because I remember very clearly we went to Mullina once, we went to Sherlock once one Christmas, we and the Stanley children went through once.
M And they were the only children we saw for two years
J Do you remember this?
JS I do remember just because things about this. One of them was Mother said she hadn't seen another woman for six months. And when this one came she
J A white woman?
JS A white woman. For six months I think it was, and the other thing I think was, one of the Stanley girls didn't like what she was drinking, and she threw it on the floor under her chair and this to me was the fabulous mode of carrying on I'd ever heard of because if we'd thrown our food on the floor I don't know what would have happened to us. Well, we just never did it, to find out
M. They were dressed in brown velvet frocks, which struck me as being incredible for that climate.
C It must have been in winter time.
M Now there, we were again fenced in and we weren't allowed out of the home block. And when shearing was on, because the men swore, we were not allowed go in the shearing shed unless Mother came with us and then the men didn't swear. But I remember for toys and things like this, we had a man called Basil Birch who was on one of the outcamps and I
JS Wasn't he
C No, this is George Gravy Bert.
M No he was the cook. But I used to
C Was it Woorarnol?
M Well, I used to make what I thought was Basil stamps.
JS Yes, that was at Woorarnel
M That was at Woorarnel and not Satrist. Well I built model stations on Satrist.
C Did you?
M. Where you got a fruit tin or a jam tin and you stuck it in the ground and you put two forked sticks

and you shaped a piece of wire and you used a piece of string and you put a top off a bottle for a little basket and you broke off twigs and made trees and did things like and and made troughs and used leaves and things like that.

J And there was no more schooling? Once you left Mrs Thompson's?

M No Mother got correspondence classes, lessons for us And we just thought they were hilarious That all you did was colour in palm trees or something like and because Father taught us to write quite well We had slates and we did get books and all sorts of things which were the basic thing of shaping O s and then you joined them and made them into a P and things like that I can't really remember when I couldn't read

C No.

J Would Fa have taught you to read?

JS No, no.

J How did you learn to read?

JS I didn't learn to read Judy until I was just about 9 because I was the youngest, I supposed I was behind and this is going to carry on to make we went to Wooroomal because it wasn't until

M. Because Jean

JS It wasn't until we went to Carnarvon and I actually went to school and that was in the middle of the year I turned 9 and I couldn't read or write

JS So Fa would have sent you to Mrs Thompson's, but

M We had no more schooling then I had

J The rest of the time he did teach you to read and write.

C No. Margaret must have been able to read and write a bit when we went to Mrs Thompson's because I could as well I and I remember Father teaching us But Mum got the correspondence.

J But you knew how to read and write before the correspondence lessons

M. Yes. But the work was just too easy

C The thing was Mum should have elaborated on that as it went but nobody had the time to oversee us doing those lessons. We used to romp through them in half a day

M And and was a week a week. And so and just lapsed We just thought it was silly And Connie was always reading all sorts of things like Scott and poems into everything and Encyclopedia. because there were no children's books much. But credit to Edith Wilson wasn't it then and you started to get papers from them children's papers

C Rae sent me a paper called The Children's Newspaper And then Arthur Mee's magazine. She sent them to me for years. And they were marvellous. They were newspapers for children.

JS Dad used to read to us. Because I can remember the Uncle Remus books went on for ages. And I liked the yellow one better

C There were two Uncle Remus books

M I was terribly disappointed with the Uncle Remus books when I came to read them I couldn't read them because it's all fractured English and it's all apostrophes and clipped words and things but Father read them fascinatingly because of hearing natives speak he was the old Negro reading them and he made them fascinating and I couldn't believe and what he said was really what was in the book. And I couldn't cope with the book.

JS Too hard to read it

M Too hard to read and yet he made them alive for baby went

JS Born and bred in a briar patch. And I'll tell you another thing I remember and I dare say it's school on your school I couldn't read so I got from free but on Sundays we had to wear shoes, or sandals and you had to do the Collect for the day and I suppose I used to go and because we because you used to go and sit into the very small garden patch this was somewhere down near the cow yard I can't think where it was and I always associate the smell of the tomato bushes with Con and Marg having to learn the Collect for the day

M. But burnt into my soul is the Nindeemaba for fighting with Connie over the washing up And I was so little that there was a kerosene case under the table on the verandah with a great big mosquito net squared off cover to cover all the, it was a plate rack thing things used to be put there and the mosquito over it. But Con and I used to have to take it in turns doing this washing up thing and this is what we used to get punished for It was fighting about the washing up

J Well, what did Grannie Helen have in the kitchen at Strelly? To cook with and wash with

M At Strelly?

C At Satrut? [could be spelt Sinirut]

M She had Chinese cooks, mainly and one white one, but then when she was so desperately in need of a holiday she went into the kitchen and did the cooking and got the tiny pay for six months so she could rent a house in Lake Street and we came down and by that time her hands were shaking, she was in her thirties and she was breaking down from overwork and misery. It hadn't rained for three years, the heat, everything died on the place practically and they shot a lot of the big stock because they were just dying. we'll show you the photos of every skin and bone

J This is why I wondered what sort of conditions she had been looking after the family under

M. The house wasn't bad.

C Oh God, it was awful. It was a tin house in that climate.

M. With stamped metal lining. And it was a bedroom just running, it was a verandah all the way round. A bedroom running right through, the living room and then two smaller bedrooms at the other end with verandahs all the way round. And the bathroom was detached from the house and it had been an enormous tank and it was cemented and a doorway cut out of it and we used to fill the bath with water and flow it over so that we had something to drink in during the day

JS But it had to be done before the sun got onto the pipes because otherwise it would be

J So you'd have a Coolgardie safe

M And great big Coolgardie safe.

C An enormous Coolgardie safe in which the top and bottom metal

M I don't remember that!

JS What a place to go and

C We had that enormous thing, we had a detached kitchen and a great big wood stove in it, an enormous kitchen and in one side of it, it had a bit of a hatch, and that was where the natives would come up and wait

M There was a great big shutter that pushed out. And the natives sat all over the wood heap and ate that meal on great big white enamel plates.

JS It was prepared apparently in the kitchen by the cook or by Mother and Mother used to make the bread and I can remember watching her she got so that she could knead two loaves of bread at a time and turn them, you know one in each hand and pop it into the tin. And she made beautiful bread. But it would be a whole tub Judy a little wash tub until it raised up.

J And washing by hand

C Oh yes.

M. But the native girls

C Mostly the native girls did the washing.

JS And the native girls used to do the sweeping because I can remember I used to bounce them by walking in front of the brooms when they were sweeping this verandah, the whole of.

M But they weren't allowed inside the house. They swept the verandahs and all the yard and things like that. And Mother was very good to those native girls. And in the winter it gets a bit nippy there. And she got great big Mother Hubbard winceyette nightgowns and coloured threads and she gave them to them and they drew emus and kangaroos and things like that across the front and they had purple kangaroos and red this and that

JS And they embroidered them

M They embroidered them across the front.

JS I can remember Dinah and Nanny and Mangill. Mangill was the thin one.

C That's right. And Mangill's man was Yarrow. And there was dear old Yootie or Henry and Gidgie

JS Gidgie was the boy and we weren't allowed to play with him after a bit because he got flies in his eyes and we might have got Godwhatsit.

M. This was one of the fears there, that if children played with the native children that you would get this terrible eye thing that sent Joyce Irvine blind. And a lot of Nor' West children

C Had what's called Nor' West eye

M They called it Nor' West eyes. And this was why and I've kept in the thing, a little net bag. Mother used to put that over babies would just pull them over like this, to stop them to stop the flies.

JS Her babies?

M Her babies.

C I can remember wearing one when I was five

M And you didn't catch any of those things

C No

JS Oh my goodness, you didn't, if you had a father like ours. One roar

J Oh, I can remember being scared of him. At Durham Street.

JS I wasn't later

C If Father said Jump you jumped.

J Well Westmoreland was next.

JS Oh yes. Well would you like any more little things about Satriat? Because Satriat is no more. Satriat is now — it was in the Pilbara, and in about days nobody about about the Pilbara, the mining had all gone. We went once to what was it? where the copper mine had been.

M Where the telephone was

C Station Peak

JS It had another name

M Warrawoona

C

JS Can't remember but I do remember we saw a death adder in one of the mine caves.

M I think you're talking about Station Peak because we had to drive there to use the telephone.

JS No

M And it had shafts into the side of the hills and the kangaroos used to live in the cool of about and you'd go and peer in and you would come out a Boomer
They'd left little trolleys on the railway

C They'd just moved out of this gold mine and it produced a lot of gold.

M What seemed like an awfully big shed to me and it had a great big framed picture of Pears bubbles which was a famous old advertisement of that pretty child.

JS But you see we had no telephone, we had no motor car. If something had to be about Dad had to you know get into the buggy or ride to wherever it was and I can't remember the name of the place, but none of these ones is quite right.

C You could ring Croydon. The only thing you could do, it was a party line, you could ring Croydon and if anybody heard, at Croydon, well they would pass on a message. But that was our isolation.

M But you haven't said enough about Brooker was it? that the wool was that came out once a fortnight

C Oh yes

M and on the sides of the ute were billy cans sewn in hessian. And he used to stop at troughs and get a bucket of water and butter them down to try and stop the butter from totally oil

JS Billy cans of butter

M Billy cans of bulk butter coming out and you would get tinned butter but it was always melted. And you would pour it out of the thing

JS And it was one of the things of my childhood this. Not until the mailman came. You know if you were out of something, that was all and if I was feeling undiplomatic, I'd say No knows till the mailman comes. You know because we were always out of things until the mailman came. But what about when the sheep were dying and there were all the little lambs. There was Dusty and Bulgy and Never-fill-out, and Cassie and Mary and goodness knows

M And Charles

JS And one of our games there, and I was lucky because I was the littlest. There was a cart, with solid

C Which George Geary Burt made

JS Which was wonderful

M With round wooden wheels

JS And

C We've got a photo of it.

JS Con and Marg used to harness up one of the big lambs into this cart, making harness out of the and from oleanders which were handy and we had a pet galah, and there's a photograph of Con pushing and Marg pulling and the galah screeching and of course Joan was sitting in the cart. She always had the box seat.

M And the only green grass we had was in front of the house which was fenced, but it had oleander trees, and we used to put the lambs in there and then they ate the oleander and we used to cry because they used to just blow up like this and die

C Listen, we must talk about the food then because I think that's a time that's gone. The Burt we had there   When the drought was at its worst, they had to give up killing sheep because I mean the last one they killed weighed something like 11 or 12 pounds It was just skin and bone So before we left, not all the time, but before we left, we were living on kangaroo And it's limited what you can do with kangaroo meat Mother did marvels with it Bob Brooker coming through would occasionally have a quarter of a sheep with him, a mutton and you'd have that and you'd have a fresh meal off it and then Father used to salt it Father made salt or corn meat extremely well, and made it very nice But because there was no, no coolness, it meant that you had fresh meat one day and then all the rest of it made into corn meat. Father was very good indeed about and   And we had a lot of beans, blue, blue boiling peas and a great deal of tinned, not tinned, dried fruit. And in the winter time we had a very good garden indeed. He had pumpkins had carrots and things like that.   And no fruit.

JS We had no tomatoes.

C We must have had tomatoes.

M Because Mother used to bring children fruit. She used to scald the tomatoes, skin them chop them up and stew them with sugar had they're really quite nice.

J Well they are a fruit.

M And they kept the garden locked on the big high fence like as high as a tennis court nearly around this garden and they watered it with buckets and they had small tanks let into the ground part of the way so you could dip out of them. And the native girls used to water these things And you'd go down afterwards when they'd watered and they'd been at the carrot patch they used to pull a carrot out and wash it and eat it and put the top back and there they all were, leaning all over the place. And they were nothing to do with that! And do you know my favourite play thing was beside the bathroom was a curly bark tree with a bow that came down like that, had I used to stand on that, and hold another one, and it was my bouncy bouncy

C It would bounce and it was very springy

JS Did you know that the bark which I mean was   if you lie very still...
you could lean on it

C Could you?   I didn't know that.   Good for you.

M And then it was while we were at Sunset the cat got up into the ceiling and one day didn't I have a ceiling and I got onto a bed onto a chest of drawers, onto a cross beam and climbed into the roof to get the cat, which was perfectly capable of looking after itself And I fell through the stamped metal ceiling of the spare, the guest room. And fell onto the cement floor and hit my head   And I was damn lucky I didn't break my back. But I can remember the agony of the fall in that, I couldn't get my breath again. My lungs wouldn't work. I just couldn't get my breath to come again. And Mother had to put up with all these things along with the natives living tribally on the bank of the river and going pink-eye every year And they used to fight with fire sticks and get big head injuries and things   And she used to do all of this for them

C Mum had a

M They called her Nunga.

C Did they?

M Nunga   for Mother

C She had a medicine chest and in it there was chlorodine for diarrhoea, there was Condys crystals which you used as a disinfectant   It goes.

M aconite

C aconite.

JS ipecacuanha

M ipecacuanha to make you vomit

C and what's that stuff that draws things? Antiphlogistine

M And you used to get awful whitlows in those days, terrible whitlows, but what was the pain killer stuff? And they used to drink it and it was full of the drug.

JS Laudanum

M Yes, laudanum and those things   You could get high on it.

JS And so they used to come up and get

M And they liked the laudanum.

C The other two have listened to this story a million times, but it can go on record. We had a Chinese cook and he had apparently some toothache and he came up to Mum and he and he wanted some pinky-lah please Poor Mother pinky lah —— Pain killer!

M Well, he was Wong Sik.

JS No, he was

M Wong Sik and Willy were at Wooroomel.

C were at Wooroomel were they?

M Wong Sik was Mt Satirist and he had no teeth and we have the photo of him looking around the door And that was Satirist I m sure. And he made me a birthday cake.

JS Well, she s not going to argue with you, but she doesn t believe you!

M Well it was at Mt Satirist wasn t it that he made the cake

JS Yes, but I don t know that it was Wong Sik___

M Well it was at Satirist with that very funny face of looking around the door and we used to scream because he had no teeth and he used to suck his top lip and his bottom lip in and just look extraordinary but he did this cake that had a minaret on it And Mother said how did he do make the minaret and it was an onion He made a perfect minaret out of an onion and and and he used some curry powder to make different colours because he only had cochineal.

JS And that was the most wonderful thing. I can t remember what the cake was made of, but to this day I can remember what icing made with curry powder made like!

M Because the Chinese were very kind to the children They were very kind

JS Remember one of the cooks perhaps it was George Gravy Burt, because his name was G G Burt apparently and nobody knew what

M We asked him what his name was and he said he was George Gravy Burt.

JS Because he was But it might have been George Gravy one of them gave us a bangle but he liked Margaret best, and he Do you remember?

C I think it was George Gravy

JS You know practically knuckled to get it on

C Yes, he was very kind to us. And anyway we had this food problem. We had this funny little store and somebody had to issue the stores and it was all written down in a book. And Father received 9 pounds a month for keep for his family but you had to buy your own chutneys and things

M Condiments

C Condiments, the essentials were supplied, but no more But nine pounds a month plus the keep and shelter And every six months, the stores used to come out from Roebourne. Well before hand, Mum and Dad would settle down how many bags of sugar how many bags of flour how much

M baking powder

C Yes, baking powder

M rice

C Rice, jams, beans That would have to be sent to I suppose Dalgety s in Roebourne. And in that course, very slowly would come a team, pulling a wagon We had donkeys one time and mainly camels I think, brought it out and we were running terribly short one time, and the man hadn t arrived when he should have, and we heard by devious ways that he d got very drunk at Wyman Creek and the whole thing was held up for a week. And then slowly ponderously anxiously to us would come this wagon laden with our stores, and they all got read off into the little store and entered up and we were going again.

JS And the only sweets we ever had were boiled lollies Boiled lollies in big squared tins with

M No a lid that lifted back.

JS Was it? Well anyway I know they used to melt and stick together and then they had to be

M And the made ones were the were shaped like a fish.

JS I was going to say that some were shaped like a fish, and some were pink

M And we really let our hands go and we had this wonderful treat and Father got two cases of soft drinks But what were they called in those days? There was a special name for them, and they came out and we d have a ritual of opening a bottle

C It came from Kirk's Aerated Water and Ice Factory in Carnarvon

M And it had to be shipped up and taken by this boat and put on that lighter and into Cossack and out on the team. So you can imagine and that was, and when I see your kids going through Coke as if

J Supported by their grandmother!

M She s but responsible!! I don t have to worry about those things.

This was a ceremony we used to decide which bottle of that water we were going to have. We had, I think, one bottle a week or something like that. It was then selected and then you put a piece of towel round it which was wet, and stood it in a basin of water so that it cooled off as much as possible. The bliss of Dad aerated water and the bliss of that tinned fruit. It remains with me to this day.

JS Yes, it was tinned fruit that was a treat.

M And we were just imprisoned in this homestead, because we didn't, Father didn't teach us to ride because we were only girls you know. He didn't mention it, but I sort of realised afterwards, well we were jolly lucky to you know that we were kept, because I mean, he just wanted a son. It was unthinkable. And the line finished you see. His brother didn't marry and so Dad has three daughters and that to him was a terrible anguish because he was still mentally the Squire of Shakestone. See the line is finished. Our line is finished.

J Ernest is a brother of Harold Aubrey

M Yes, but there are two Ernests, but one Wooramel. He was his double first cousin. Ernest Hall of Wooramel and Ernest Hall the other; their mothers were sisters, they were Lazenbys and the fathers were brothers.

JS And apparently when Cousin Ernest and Uncle Ernest must have been born near about the same time, two sisters, but one went to Perth to have the baby and other stayed up and they both had boys and they both called them Ernest. Of course without knowing. They were a thousand miles apart.

C So they had to be Brother Ernest and Cousin Ernest always.

JS And Dad used to he was called Ernest Anderton, after his father and Dad often called him Ander

M So that was a very close relationship there. But they were the well-to-do Halls and we were the poor.

JS Yes his Dad insisted on telling Cousin Ernest how

C Exactly how he should do everything.

JS And he always succeeded.

M Well, we have to hurry because there can't be a lot left. We should have watched the time. We'd better

JS Well, all right, I insisted on going back to Satterst because there, that was the first

M The only

JS The real corroboree we ever saw. Really really corroboree. That the natives just decided to give themselves and then let us watch.

J Well that was unusual wasn't it?

M Well, that was Dad, Dad and Mother were in very good standing.

C So we went down to the river bank and watched.

J At night?

C At night.

M That was marvellous.

JS And the natives were really tribal. They had julajulas[?] which are spirits or ghosts. It might only be the moonlight shining on a white gum tree, Dad said, but you know that was a juna [?] that is a bad place, we've got to move camp. They really were tribal. One story I must tell. Does anybody remember the Dad had no white help on the station at all but he had a half caste man he was his good good boy and I've forgotten his name

M They lived he and his wife lived in the camp

JS They were superior and the rest

C Tommy Abdullah

M Who could draw and we've still got his drawing

JS And, among the stock there was a donkey called Mrs McGregor. And one day Tommy Abdullah came to Dad and offered him ten bob I think for Mrs McGregor and Dad said she wasn't for sale, but why on earth would he want to buy Mrs McGregor. And it turned out that Mrs McGregor had got into his camp and eaten thirty hams! Oh, I'll let Sairist go

M Well we'd better hurry from Sairist

C We went to Perth. You went to Hazelhurst I think that time. I went to school to Cottesloe.

M Gave Connie the choice of a holiday in the Eastern Districts or going to school, and she just couldn't get to school fast enough. And to the girl we cruelly called Freda Bumkin.

C We went North again. It was pretty low water. We went and stayed in Roebourne. In Cossack with Uncle. Now Father got the oddest job in the world. He got the job of being a turtle butcher at a turtle soup factory

I've never heard that

Haven't you? And there was a chap called Chamberlain I think ran the boat, that used to go out and they'd catch the turtles, bring them in alive, they had a corral on the high water mark, and they put the turtles in there and the poor doomed creatures were hung up and Father dispatched them and

M Humanely with a sledge hammer on the head and chop their heads off

C And then they were boiled in enormous boilers at the back of the Customs Office

JS And the smell of that is something that is like no other thing I've ever smelled, and it stays with me for ever

C I've forgotten what it smells like Anyway believe it or not, it didn't go They were going to supply all the Lord Mayors banquets in London with turtle soup,

M But the bloke didn't make a good brew or he, the chef wasn't any good

C I think the chef was drunk I think he was supposed to put sherry into the soup and he didn't, he put it into himself Anyway towards the end of that year Cousin Ernest wrote to Father and said he was badly in need of a foreman, overseer at Wooramel station and how about it And Father

JS Wooramel was out of Carnarvon which was a long way south.

C Father didn't particularly want to go, but Mother talked him into it, and that to my mind was when we started to come upwards We never looked back from the time we went to Wooramel A little bit at a time Instead of hopelessness. We got some education, we had a nice house for the time. We had one of the nicest houses

M We had the, one of the best houses and this was bought with money of Gaggon's

J It was Grannie's house wasn't it?

M Yes, it was Grannie Helen's and by jove, in that generation she didn't let happen what happened to her Mother it was in her name And it had five bedrooms, it was made of brick when very few houses were made of brick. And it was on an enormous block, in a peak position overlooking the harbour and the water

JS And with all that land they built it about a few X yards from the street

M And it had three sand yards. And a driveway going down the side, and stables and a man's room and everything

M Turn that off

J No keep going

M Well what happened next?

JS Well, Con went to school first.

C I went to school at the Convent to board. The whole family came in from Wooramel a couple of years later

M Well, I was boarding for six miserable ghastly months, and I got into trouble because I was reported for posting a letter direct to Mother without letting the Nuns read it first, saying Take me away Take me away And Mother then came to town and Father tendered for what was called the Commonage And this was everybody ran their stock, cos most people had cows

C horses, camels

M horses, camel teams, all these things and they paid agistment, and he did this for the Council.

JS And Dad had to tender to the Council for what he would pay for the Commonage

M And then he charged everybody else

C Or didn't charge them!

M He long after said to me 'You know it was a great mistake on my part that I didn't let you and Constance take over my books Now I tackled him about that, that we should do this. He would, we to Connie running practically Burke and Gazelow's I took over from the alcoholic bookkeeper at Carnarvon Motor and Engineering Co Here we were doing all other things, signing Company cheques, the lot But Father would not let us send the accounts out. And again, there was never any money because he didn't send them out.

J What were you doing then Joan?

JS Well, I was still at school Judy This must have been — we were in Carnarvon from I think 1927 on, and I finished my school. I did my school all through the Depression. It was just about beginning when we moved into town and I stayed at the Convent all the time. Having had the best sort of chance at school of any of us, I probably did the most but I finally got a very miserable Junior

[illegible] which was an achievement from that Convent.
[illegible] were really the most terrible teachers. I can remember Dad used to nearly go mad with...
poor ignorant Irish biddies.
The pronunciations we used to come inside with, talking about Bue Aires and Dad used to say "Bonares". And things like that, and then that was up to 1935. In 1936 I came to Perth and stayed with Cousin Winifred in Outram Street and did a five months of a six months business course, and went back to Carnarvon

M worked in Connie's office.

JS Yes, and that year while I was down, which was 1936 your Father and your Mother were married, and they went off to Adelaide and then the next year 1937 which made ten years I'd lived in Carnarvon, I went to Adelaide to stay with your Mother

C You must have gone, after me because you were with us still when Alan and I were married in May 1937

JS Yes

J Were you married in Carnarvon?

C Yes

JS Until October of that year

C Was that it? But you were with Margaret when Judy was born were you?

JS That's right, and Mother was there too. And then.

C And you can't have stayed on, but you were there, and Judy was there when Peter was killed.

JS Yes. Well, I stayed, Judy Bond came over while Margaret brought Judy

M I was ill

JS To see Peter's parents.

M Because they hadn't seen you, and you were the only grandchild

JS And you were ten months old.

M And I protested about, I didn't want to come, but I was, they thought, on the verge of TB. Because the stupid mothercraft nurse made me feed you, when I was just getting thinner and thinner and anyway I, Peter and I to go away flying Adelaide Darwin and I drove in the baby Austin, and took you out and got myself on a plane that was being ferried over here with Jimmy Woods and a whole lot of other pilots and, for free, and on take-off Jimmy Woods did what he so picturesquely said he pulled the wrong tit. He pulled the undercarriage up on take-off and we went straight into the tarmac and the props went into the tarmac. And there was a great hoo-ha. The opposition rang the newspapers in Adelaide and they came blazing out to photograph this. And they and this awful hurry to push the plane into a hangar before the press got there and photographed it. And so I was so relieved at not having to go, that I didn't get around to shaking, went inside people were. Mary Durack Miller was on her honeymoon.

C Was she?

M With Horrie. And she saw it happen. And I put myself back in the baby Austin and drove home and I had a whole month with Peter which I wouldn't have had. And after Christmas I went. It was 113 degrees, and you were this gorgeous baby of about ten months and I was so ill with the air pockets we were falling into all the time that the pilots all looked after you, and you were this gorgeous kid. You were used to going every man that was in uniform on the tarmac, you used to hold your arms out, and of course they used to take you. And when I took you out to Parafield, you used to go. And all these men used to take you and when you saw these uniformed blokes coming down the steps, you used to dig your toes into my tummy and just stand and shake, with excitement for Peter to come. And anyway I came and I was only here ten days when he was killed. And Jean and Judy Bond were up with Jess White. This is why Jess keeps in touch with us. And so that started it.
I went back with Pat on the boat, and left you with Grannie to tidy up my affairs in Adelaide and I shipped the Austin.

C That's when you met Malt.

M And that's when I met Malt. He was on the boat. And somebody who knew me, spoke to the Captain and he sent a little card to me by the Bosun's Boy asking me to take sherry with him when we went out that night. And he issued instructions that if I wanted my lunch on deck, I was to have it. And that I could have anything I wanted. And they were very good to me.

JS That was the was it?

J Well how long did you stay on in Carnarvon?

C We got married in 1937 in 1939 we went to England, and due to a slight miscalculation on my part, Jill was born in England. We booked our fares to England. This talked of, longed for planned for saved for trip And I got pregnant about the time I booked. And we came back from England after the war started and lived here we went back to Carnarvon, and the rest of it is not uninteresting since you've grown up. And it is recent history

JS We haven't talked much about Wooramel, but I don't know if there is much to say

M That was quite an exciting place because there was lots of fruit

JS It was a new thing for us. Cousin Ernest had a marvellous garden and how on earth he did it I don't know. But the cook, who did the cooking for the station, not the natives, but he did it for all the men and for the all the house, not for us. Mother did ours - we lived in a separate little cottage. But he and this enormous

M He had three dining rooms. He had the overseers dining room, the men's dining room and the inside dining room to cook for

JS That's right. The jackaroos dining room.

C There was always a largeness about Cousin Ernest's places. Going to Sherlock was bliss to me for as I was concerned.

M That was the first Christmas tree we ever saw

C The first Christmas tree we ever saw. And Cousin always had a good ear and there was always life and motion where he was. And when he played the piano and sang and there were kids spilling around.

M And they had dancing. And they had Shetland ponies for the kids. And motor cars

C And Henry had a whole collection of Boys Own annuals. I remember for eight days being out of this world. I was reading Boys Own annuals.

JS On Wooramel there was a great trellis of vines, closed in to keep out the birds, but we'd never seen vines growing.

C They had the biggest orange trees I'd ever seen.

JS Well I wondered whether it was because I was little, but oh, the orange trees were huge. And there were two oranges and a lemon.

C And mandarin trees

JS There were mandarins and this enormous navel orange, the like of which I've known anywhere else

C And he grew cabbages and cauliflowers and every kind of vegetable.

M It was very civilised living there.

JS There were beans and peas and things and there was a man called Mr and he had a frightful St Vitus Dance. some so... one shouldn't laugh. But one of three men I can remember the garden which was on the river bank.